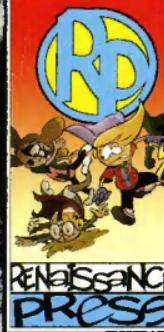


PLUS: APATHY KAT



AMELIA RULES!

"Hangin' Out!"



**FREE
COMIC
BOOK
DAY**



AMELIA Rules!



**Written and
Illustrated by
Jimmy Gownley**

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Michael Cohen**

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Karen Gownley**

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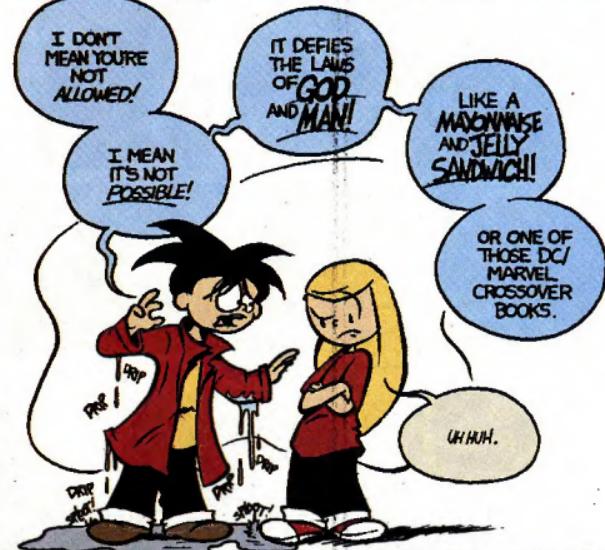


AMELIA RULES!

"Hangin' Out!"

by
Jimmy Gownley





GEEZ, RHONDA.
YOU LOOK
AWFUL.

NO, NO, REGGIE.
"SOGGY" IS THE
NEW "BLACK."

That's
FINE
>-smiff-

Your
BABES
cad
HARD
me...

I already
feel like
GRAP

Aw dat's
keeping
me going...

SNIFF

is wads
la dis
BOX

It's my
PROJEGD

An' id's a
GUARANTEED
"A"

AH AH
AH...

ZWHEN
FALSE ALARM

SO, WHAT'S
THIS BIG
PROJECT,
ANYWAY?

LET ME
GET HER
A ROBE
FIRST ...

GEEZ, RHONDA.
YOU LOOK
AWFUL.

NO, NO, REGGIE.
"SOGGY" IS THE
NEW "BLACK."

That's
FINE
>-smiff-

Your
BABES
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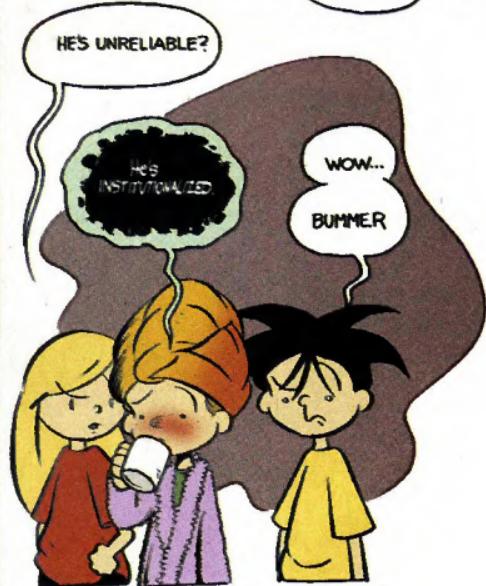
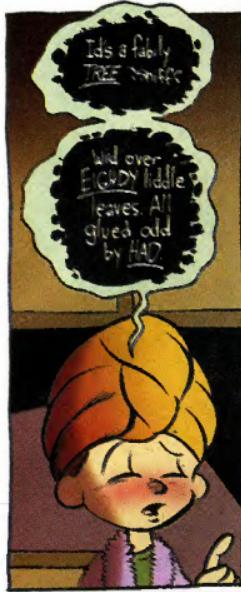
AH AH
AH...

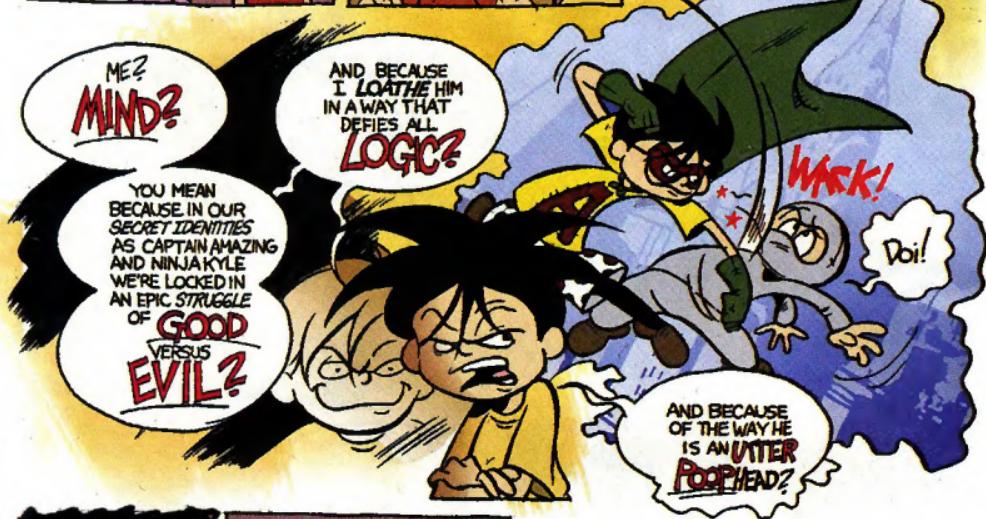
ZWHEN
FALSE ALARM

SO, WHAT'S
THIS BIG
PROJECT,
ANYWAY?

LET ME
GET HER
A ROBE
FIRST ...

"SHE'S DRIPPIER THAN YOU ARE."







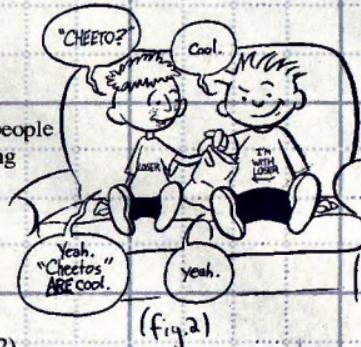
Hangin' Out

Hangtavious Outacus -More commonly known as "Hanging Out"- is a 20th Century American invention, in the vein of "Bummin' Around," or "Chillin'." Although Hanging Out at first appears rather simple, in fact, its rules are myriad.

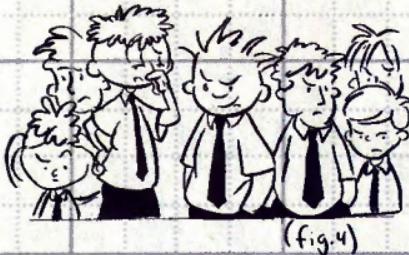


Hanging out cannot be done alone. That is called "moping" or "Being a "Pariah," and neither one is particularly attractive. (fig. 1)

Any group containing two to five people may engage in Hanging Out, so long as doing nothing is the primary activity. For example, "Hanging Out and talking" is acceptable, while "Hanging Out and building shelters for Habitat for Humanity" is not. Snacks are not required, but are highly recommended. (fig. 2)



There are strict restrictions on how many people may Hang Out, and how often the hanging may occur. For example, More than five people is now a Party, and while it may seem like you can Hang out at a Party, you can't because the music is too loud, and let's face it, there's no way you like more than five people anyway. (fig. 3)



Here is where the slippery slope gets even slipperier.

More than five people more than once a month is no longer a party, but a club (fig. 4). This is fine, but you may be expected to pay dues, or pretend to be interested in other people's boats, and/or record collections. More than once a WEEK, and it becomes a cult. It is definitely advisable NOT to join a cult, but if you feel you must, remember that it is better to be the leader than the guy who collects the fingers. (fig. 5)



THE FINGERS?

WHAT FINGERS?

Amelia...
We hab
WORG do
do!

OKAY, YOU GUYS TRY NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER.

OKAY!
GREAT!

WE'LL BE DONE SOON...

AND THEN,
WE CAN ALL HANG OUT, OKAY?

HEY, BONEHEAD.

YES LADY KYLE?

SINCE YOU GUYS ALL GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER, DON'T YOU, HAVE A PROJECT DUE, TOO?

YEAH, PROBABLY...

BUT I CAN JUST THROW SOMETHING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING TOGETHER AT BREAKFAST.

NO MATTER WHAT CLASS IT IS, GLOBAL WARMING IS A QUARANTEED "C."

IT'S VERY "HOT" RIGHT NOW.

HEH HEH: GET IT?

BOY, HOW ANYONE CAN BELIEVE IN THAT GARBAGE IS BEYOND ME!

!



DID YOU EVER HEAR THESE PEOPLE TALK?



NOW, LET'S SAY THIS
GRAPEFRUIT
REPRESENTS
THE SUN. OKAY?

OKAY.

OKAY. NOW CLOSE
YOUR EYES AND
PICTURE A
POLAR BEAR ON
A GLACIER.
OKAY?

OKAY.



WHAT WAS
THAT FOR?

YOU SAID
YOU WANTED
ME TO
EXPLAIN
GLOBAL
WARMING!



WELL, WHAT THE HECK
DOES BEANING
ME WITH A
GRAPEFRUIT
HAVE TO DO WITH
ANYTHING?!



HMM...

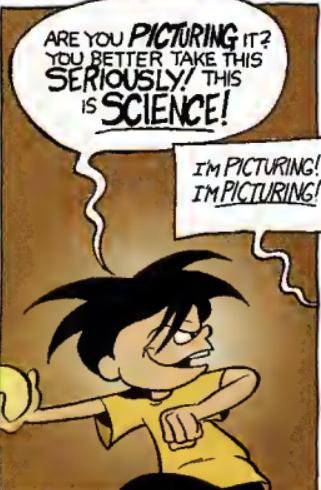
MAYBE I
DIDN'T
EXPLAIN
IT VERY
WELL.

THIS TIME,
PICTURE A
BIG POLAR
BEAR!

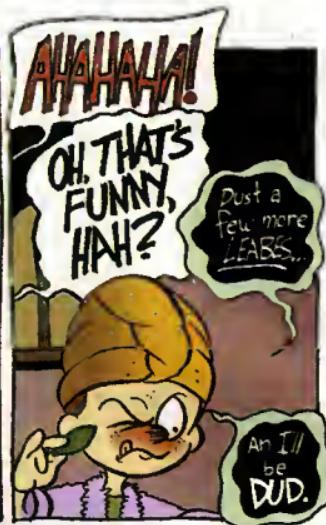
OKAY.

ARE YOU **PICTURING** IT?
YOU BETTER TAKE THIS
SERIOUSLY! THIS
IS SCIENCE!

I'M PICTURING!
I'M PICTURING!



DO YOU THINK
IT'S SMART
TO LEAVE THOSE
TWO IN THERE?



WELL, HOW 'BOUT ONE
OF THESE?

POW!

THAT DOES IT!
WAIT HERE TIL
I GET MY
COSTUME!

WHAT, YOU DON'T
WEAR IT UNDER
THOSE DORKY
CLOTHES?



NO, BUT I KEEP
A SPARE HIDDEN
IN AMELIA'S
JAMMIE DRAWER!

WHATZ!

Oops!
(I've said
too much!)







WE NEVER
GOT TO
**HANG
OUT!**

APATHY KAT PREVIEW

Some of you who have been following comics for a while might remember a little book called *Apathy Kat*. Published by Entity Comics in the mid '90s, *Apathy Kat* was totally at odds with prevailing trends both inside and outside the comics biz. The creation of cartoonist Harold Buchholz, *Apathy Kat* is a sweet, funny, goofy and slightly surreal comic book that wears its very big heart proudly on its sleeve.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to meet Harold, and we've since become great friends. If you like the new *Amelia Rules!* bookshelf editions, then you have Harold to thank, as he is the one that oversaw their production.

I liked *Apathy Kat* when it was coming out in black and white pamphlet form, but when I saw Harold's spiffy new fuel-injected full color version, I fell in love.

My daughter Anna did, too.

She told me she LIKES "Meel-yuh," but she LOVES "Ap-uh-fee Kat."

Harold is currently back at the drawing board working on all-new *Apathy Kat* stories, so hopefully we'll be seeing the fruits of those labors soon. It's been too long a wait.

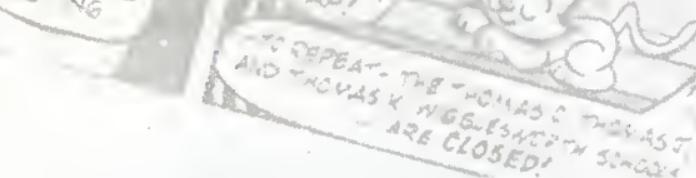
And if you just CAN'T wait, check out Acredale.com for more adventures of Ap and the gang online.

So, on behalf of the talented Harold Buchholz, and the lovely Anna Gownley, I am pleased to introduce you to an unheralded Cartoon Gem...

"Ap-uh-fee Kat"

-Jimmy Gownley
2007

SON?
ONLY ONE
LIVING





Apathy Kat

AP'S DIARY

In the town of Acredale's
a home for strays that's toasty warm.
It boards rejected kits and pups
up in its second-story dorm.

The baseball season months away,
there are no fields where they can play.
Perhaps a yarn spun fresh today
will bring them spring upon a sleigh.

HEY AP!
SAMSON!

MISS GOODPENNY'S
HOME FOR STRAYS
OPENED 1928
FRIENDS • WOOF • LOVE



JAVA! WHAT IN
THE NAME OF ALL
THAT IS COOL ARE
YOU DOING BENDING
AN EAR TO THAT
SQUARE STATION?

GET HELP,
SAMSON!
IT'S THE
ONLY ONE
LISTING...

SNOW DAY
CANCELLATIONS!

SAY-AY,
AP!

-TO REPEAT- THE THOMAS C., THOMAS J.,
AND THOMAS K. WIGGLESWORTH SCHOOLS
ARE CLOSED!

SO KIDS, ENJOY YOUR DAY OFF—
WISH I HAD A DAY OFF, HUH, EMILY?
(HEE HEE-TODD, YOU SAID IT!)

DO YA SEE ME
DANCIN'?
I'M DANCIN'!



HIGHER LEARNING
NOW & EVER
RAISE YOUR BANNER
TO THE
SKY



WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T PROOFY, THE THIRD-GRADE GENIUS. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE SUCH A HIGH-MINDED LAD AS YOURSELF THIS MORNING!
DO YOU WANT INTO THE LIBRARY?



-HOLD ON—A PROFESSOR STRAIGHTLACE OF THOMAS "K." WIGGLESWORTH SCHOOL IS ON THE LINE SAYING THAT HIS CLASS WILL BE IN SESSION—

SNOW OR NO!

NO!

AGH—CAN HE DO THAT, AP? WHAT KIND OF FIEND IS STRAIGHTLACE?



AH HA
WELL, HAVING BEEN CHARGED WITH ACREDALE'S WORST HIGH SCHOOL SLACKERS, I FEEL I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY.

YOU'RE THEIR LAST CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION, SIR.



HAHAHAHA
DON'T WORRY. MY INTELLECT WILL INTIMIDATE THEM INTO IT ONCE I EXPOSE THE UNCARING EMPTY-HEADEDNESS OF THEIR NEW LEADER—

"APATHY KAT?"
THEN I DO HOPE YOU MAKE QUICK WORK OF HIM!



ORDER, EVERYONE—
PULL OUT YOUR INVENTION
ASSIGNMENTS—

REMEMBER: THE NOBLE
INFLUENCE OF THE NIMBLE
MIND IS WHAT CHANGES OUR
SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER

CLEP
CLEP

YIPE!

I FORGOT TO BRING
MINE IN ALL THE HOOPLA
OF THE "SNOW DAY"

MISS SUZIE— WHAT IS
THAT MASS OF COLORED
NEWSPRINT?

IT'S
S'POSED
TO BE A
POMPON

A POMPON.
AND HOW, PRAY
TELL, DOES THIS
ADD TO OUR BODY
OF INVENTION?

WE-E-ELL,
BY ATTACHIN'
RUBBER BANDS,
A FLICK OF
YOUR WRISTS...

WAHH!

-SHOOTS 'EM
OUT AND BRINGS
'EM BACK TO YA!

OH, THANK YOU, MISS
SUZIE, FOR SOLVING OUR
NATION'S PRESSING
POMPON PROBLEMS

YOU'RE
QUITE
WELCOME,
SIR!

-AND **WHAT** DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE DOING?

WELL, WELL, WELL.
EVERYONE... EVERYONE...

NOTHING

CLEP
CLEP

MR. APATHY KAT IS DOING....
NOTHING.

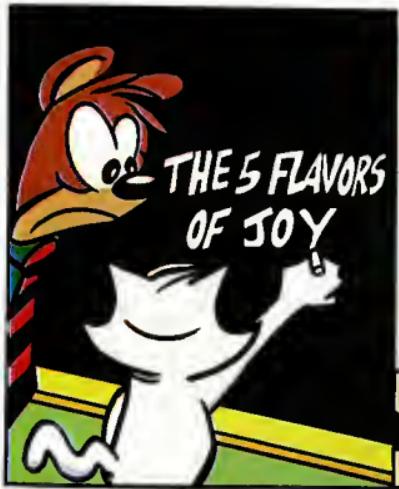
AND
QUITE WELL,
TOO, I MIGHT
ADD

PERHAPS MR. KAT WOULD CARE
TO SHARE WITH US WHAT HE
SHOULD BE DOING—

I'M
NOT
STUPID.

YES — WHY DON'T WE
ALL LISTEN TO MR. APATHY
KAT AS TO WHY HE HAS FOUND
DOING **NOTHING** SUPERIOR
TO THE AGREED-
UPON ASSIGNMENT!





ROUND ONE TO
APATHY KAT,
I'D SAY, EH,
PROF?

"EH, PROF," INDEED!
MISS SUZIE —
I WOULD SUGGEST
FOR YOUR GOOD THAT
YOU **DISPENSE**
WITH THE LOWBROW
BARNYARD CHEER
OF THE APATHY
KAT FAN —



EVERYONE - THIS
NARCISSISTIC ENDEAVOUR
ON THE PART OF MR. KAT
IS THE **LOWEST** FORM OF
SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT
I HAVE YET SEEN —



- AND WHAT IS THAT
SMELL?

IT MUST BE
BOTH A SELF-
AGGRANDIZER
AND A ROOM AIR
FRESHENER!







HOO-HOO! HOW
DO YOU TAKE ALL
THAT ABUSE FROM
THE PROF?

HE SINGLES YOU
OUT ALMOST
EVERY DAY!

YOU'D BETTER
WATCH IT, AP—
YOU KNOW THE
PROF HAS IT
IN FOR YOU

SLAP!



—AND BAD GRADES FOR YOU
CAN MEAN BAD GRADES FOR
MIZ GOODPENNY AND HER
HOME FOR STRAYS

BESIDES, IT
WOULD BREAK HER
HEART IF YOU FAILED.
SHE CARES ABOUT YOU

UM—
I CARE ABOUT YOU



OK?
— JUST SO
THAT'S STRAIGHT
... AND ALL...

TWO THINGS.
— I'VE NO
MASTER AND
NO MOM.
SAVVY, SUZE?

BUT YOU HAVE
A HEART, DON'CHA?





AMELIA RULES!

#17

Special
DOUBLE-SIZED
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AMELIA RULES!

VOLUME 4

AMELIA RULES!

When the Past is a Present



ON SALE THIS DECEMBER

AMELIA RULES!

Renaissance Press presents
This June, a comic book event not to be missed:
AMELIA RULES! #18
"The Things I Cannot Change"

When Amelia and her friends find out that 'Ninja Joan' isn't moving away, they're all thrilled...but why doesn't Joan seem happy?

Then, when Kyle invites Amelia to a 6th-grade dance, they find out the truth... Joan's father is being sent on a dangerous deployment with his job as a Captain in the United States Army.

Suddenly the young friends need to help Joan through a very difficult time, knowing she won't see her father for a year... and that's the best case scenario.

We caught up with Amelia creator Jimmy Gownley to discuss this extraordinary issue.



Amelia Rules! has been nominated for 3 Eisner and 2 Harvey awards.

*

It was the first graphic novel ever made a Children's Book of the Month Club selection.

*

Amelia Rules! Volume 3: SUPERHEROES recently won the first Cybil Award for Best Graphic Novel for Ages 12 and Under.

*

The issue contains a lesson plan for educators and counselors.

*

Original artwork from the issue will be auctioned off to benefit veterans' charities.

Q: Where did you get the idea to cover this subject?

JG: I've been thinking of addressing the issue of war since I made some oblique references to it back in issue #4, but for various reasons, I always shied away from it, probably because it was such a big and complex subject. Finally, I narrowed it down to a very specific thought: In a time of war thousands of kids make sacrifices, and those sacrifices should be honored. Their voices should be heard. Once I had that, I thought of the title "The Things I Cannot Change," the story then came easily.

Q: There don't seem to be many fictional stories covering this issue of how children are affected by parents being sent off to war. Why do you think this hasn't been covered very much in modern children's fiction?

JG: Probably because it's very difficult to do, and you are bound to draw criticism, even if you have the best of intentions. Plus, I think a lot of people working in kids' entertainment forget that kids sometimes have to deal with very adult concerns. It's a very difficult tightrope to walk sometimes, but it seems to be my forte.

Q: What has been the toughest thing about writing this story?

JG: Keeping it to 32 pages. You could easily do an entire series on this topic. As a matter of fact, I suspect this storyline will bleed over into the ongoing Amelia stories for quite some time.

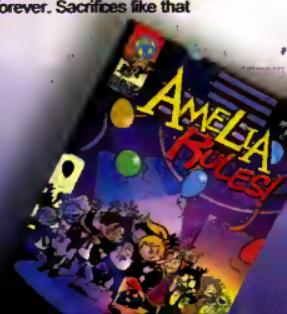
Q: What has been your most rewarding experience doing this issue?

JG: Working with Major Steve Murphy and his son Taegen as guest editors. Steve is an Iraq War veteran, and his 10 year old son Taegen has gone through the exact same situation depicted in the story. Knowing that they're working with me to make this book as authentic as possible makes me very excited. I'm honored that they're helping me on this.

Q: What are your hopes regarding the impact of this story?

JG: I have two hopes for this issue. First, I hope it rings true to kids who have, or have had, a parent sent to war. I hope they feel that, in the character of Joan, they have been given a voice. And secondly, I hope adults who read it become more fully aware of the sacrifices some kids have made. Some have given up a parent for a year, some for two, and some forever. Sacrifices like that deserve to be honored.

**On Sale
This June**



THIS JUNE...

AN AMELIA-EYED
LOOK AT WAR...

AND THE
SACRIFICES SOME
CHILDREN
MUST MAKE.

AMELIA
RULES!

NUMBER 18

"The Things I Cannot Change"



**Have you seen the Amelia Rules!
30-second commercial yet?**

Visit www.ameliarules.com

GET THE WHOLE STORY

AMELIA RULES!

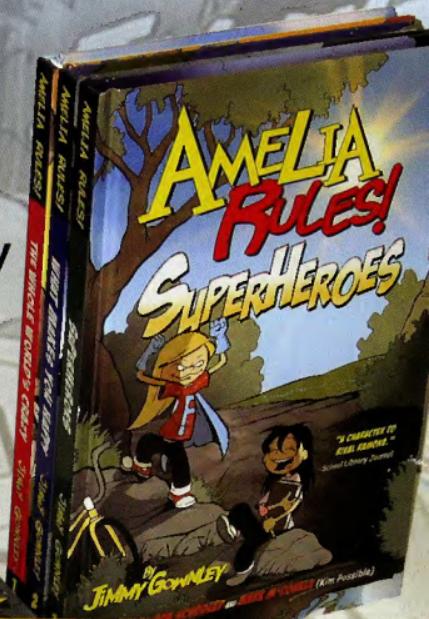
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-Library Journal

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